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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fiber having an exposed surface, comprising: a biodegradable synthetic polymer forming a portion of the exposed surface of the fiber; and a plurality of particles formed of a low friction material also forming a portion of the exposed surface of the fiber, wherein said biodegradable synthetic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, aliphatic polyurethanes, cis-polyisoprene, cis-polybutadiene, polycaprolactone, polylactic acid, polyhydroxy alkanooates, and copolymers and blends thereof.

2 – 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said fiber is a monocomponent fiber.

8. (Original) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said low friction particles are formed of a fluoropolymer.

9. (Original) The fiber of claim 8, wherein said low friction particles are formed of a non-thermoplastic fluoropolymer.

10. (Original) The fiber of claim 9, wherein said fluoropolymer is selected from non-melt processable polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) homopolymers and copolymers thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) The fiber of claim 10, wherein said copolymer includes one or more monomers selected hexafluoropropylene, perfluorooxyalkyl vinyl ethers having C1-C4 alkyl radicals, vinylidene fluoride, ethylene, propylene, vinyl esters and acrylic monomers.

12. (Original) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said low friction particles are present in said fiber in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 15 percent by weight based on the total weight of the fiber.

13. (Original) A fiberfill material comprising fibers having an exposed surface and comprising: a biodegradable synthetic polymer forming at least a portion of the exposed surface

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of the fiber; and a plurality of particles formed of a low friction material also forming at least a portion of the exposed surface of the fiber, wherein said biodegradable synthetic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, aliphatic polyurethanes, cis-polyisoprene, cis-polybutadiene, polycaprolactone, polylactic acid, polyhydroxy alkanoates, and copolymers and blends thereof.

14 – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Withdrawn) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said fiber is a multicomponent fiber.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said biodegradable synthetic polymer is polylactic acid.

22. (Previously Presented) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said low friction particles are present in said fiber in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 4 percent by weight based on the total weight of the fiber.

23. (Previously Presented) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said low friction particles have an average diameter of less than about 10 microns.

24. (Previously Presented) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said low friction particles have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

25. (Previously Presented) The fiber of claim 1, wherein said fiber is selected from the group consisting of staple fibers, continuous filaments, meltblown fibers, and spunbond fibers.

26. (Previously Presented) The fiberfill material of claim 13, wherein said low friction

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particles are formed of a non-thermoplastic fluoropolymer.

27. (Previously Presented) The fiberfill material of claim 13, wherein said biodegradable synthetic polymer is polylactic acid.

28. (Previously Presented) The fiberfill material of claim 13, wherein said low friction particles have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.